

Outline, Week 7

Second half of *Villette*

Readings

- Charlotte Bronte, *Villette* (second half)
- Sharon Marcus, *Between Women*, Introduction and Chapter 2
- Stephen Best and Sharon Marcus, “Surface Reading: An Introduction”
- William Cohen, “Why Is There So Much French in *Villette*?”

Talking about the Readings

- Selections from Sharon Marcus’s *Between Women*
- We have **two** summaries from Laura and Sagnik to work with!
- In what ways are Marcus’s frameworks useful, especially in context or dialogue with others we’ve encountered earlier this semester?
- Laura and Sagnik are both skeptical! Perhaps we should mark these discontents and then (re)visit the respective passages later on?
- Surface Reading!
- “A surface is what insists on being looked *at* rather than what we must train ourselves to see *through*.” (9)
- Keton can I call on you to briefly run through the Best and Marcus?
- “Just reading” and potentially going through what the different surfaces are
- What are the larger implications of this kind of approach? Thoughts?
 - “In closing, we want to underscore two points: that to see more clearly does not require that we plumb hidden depths and that producing accurate accounts of surfaces is not antithetical to critique; indeed, it may be, as Bruno Latour has recently suggested, the best way to move past the impasses created by what has become an excessive emphasis on ideological demystification.” (18)

As a Segway into *Villette*

Representations, Narration, Interiority, Things we’ve been grappling with...

- Keton does some fun things with Beck and Marcus, Cohn, and Cohen

- What do we think of French in *Villette* and of Cohen's argument about French in *Villette*? In relation to Boone's argument about Miller from last week?

Passages and Questions to Consider

- Lucy's relationships with Ginevra and Polly!
 - "rivalry" and "amity"
- Desire and sexuality: Boone's argument about Dr. John vs the M. Paul? Marcus's reading?
 - Marriage plot in *Villette*?
- The experience of reading the scene where Lucy wanders into the park? The celebration of independence as a backdrop to this?
- M. Paul gives Lucy a house and a new set of friends (M. Milet), she inhabits new spaces?
- Sagnik is interested in revisiting the play scene
- Laura is interested in talking about the additional narrative detail we were given about Miss Marchmont and (I'm assuming) the hundred pounds Lucy receives at the end as a plot tie to the 'frame story'
- Looking at all the characters who Lucy is set against:
 - Ginevra on the stage
 - Polly both in childhood and in adulthood (and likewise her marriage with Dr. John as contrasting to Lucy's own marriage(!?) with M. Paul
 - Madame Beck as romantic rival
 - Miss Marchmont as foreshadowing Lucy's own fate?
 - Madame Walravens as this incredible caricature and odd character?
- the NUN. Is this parody? Real effect? A moment of real resistance? Are we guilty of symptomatic reading?